



2024

To know Christ and make him known

IMPACT REPORT

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD,
CARSHALTON BEECHES



Good Shepherd
CARSHALTON BEECHES



2 WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE VICAR

Our church community

To be church is to be part of a movement, not a moment (to borrow a phrase from Hamilton). As people who gather around Jesus and his teachings, we the church are always learning, always growing, always open to being surprised by what God is up to. We the church are the community that gathers, and we are the church everyday, everywhere that we are. We are rooted in Christ as we gather to worship, growing in faith as everyday disciples, and fruitful in love as we seek the well-being of our community. We are who we are because of who Jesus is, not because of what we do.

We thought over Christmas about how God came into the ordinary in Mary and Joseph – **ordinary girl, ordinary boy, extraordinary God**. It is that ordinary that we celebrate – the ordinary that God makes extraordinary. You serve God and worship God in so many (extra)ordinary ways, and all of those contribute to the impact the church has made in your areas. Through time spent listening to each other, sharing meals together, washing up, mowing the lawn. Through gathered worship in the AV, music, flower and hospitality teams, in speaking roles and teaching roles to adults and children. Through organising events like the fairs, AoP, Lent Appeal events, and other charities that you are involved in; through prayerful presence and prayerful absence, walking through joys and sorrows together with honesty, truthfulness and love. You are amazing.

Gathering people together to explore faith more deeply is one of my favourite things, and we did that throughout the year in different ways. This included evening services called Deepening Faith – Growing Character in Lent and beyond, and others focusing on the Holy Spirit, and then teaching on How to Pray With Each Other; with the young people at Satellites, and in the Confirmation Course and the confirmation itself which followed – such a joy to celebrate 12 young people being confirmed! What an impact it was! We also celebrate our small groups, which are a great source of spiritual growth and support, and I am proud that they are all lay-led and Ian and I simply attend. The impact these groups and activities have is beyond measure.

This is why it brings me great joy to be part of this church community locally, and also to represent you to the wider church. Ian and I are often out doing assemblies in the parish or lessons with Sutton Schoolwork (where I am a Trustee), or taking funerals, and we even did a wedding together at St Margaret's Chipstead! We are both active members of our local clergy chapter and Deanery Synod, where I am the Area Dean, as well as the local Church Leaders Collective, and Churches Together. I am on the Bishops Advisory Group for Liturgy, and teach on the Bishops Certificate. These are some of the ways that we engage with the wider church and community, which is a really important part of being a parish church. Thank you not just for what you do, but for who you are, and who we are becoming as a church.

"Blessed are they who trust in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought, and never fails to bear fruit."
(Jeremiah 17.7-8)



Kevin

Rev Kevin Lewis,
Vicar



WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE CURATE

In the summer of 2024, I was ordained a priest by the Bishop of Southwark. It was a special moment, surrounded by my family and some of the dear members of the Good Shepherd Church, sent heartfelt messages of well wishes, and offered prayers for my journey. Thank you!

This has added another dimension to my ministry: the ability to preside over Holy Communion celebrations which has been a significant and cherished aspect in fulfilling my calling by God.

In the Autumn Sunday evening services on learning how to pray with one another, it was wonderful for me to lead with Katrina and witness how people who came, engaged in this unfamiliar yet simple style of praying with one another while also encountering God in a loving way.

I continue working alongside colleagues from different denominations involved in Churches Together. It has been a blessing to see how the Good Shepherd Church is represented within the Churches Together church. I enjoyed leading a small team organising the service for Good Friday walk of witness; this would not have been possible without all who volunteered to take on planning and organising. Thank you!

I have been supporting Sutton Schools work in their local secondary school ministry, specifically, contributing to running the knife crime programme and the healthy relationships programme at Oaks Park School. Please do pray for all the facilitators at Sutton School Work, staff and students at Oaks Park School.

In 2024, I've been overseeing home groups at the Good Shepherd. It's a place where people can come and ask questions, study the Bible, and have meaningful discussions as they grow in their faith. It has been a pleasure to work with the home group leaders who are passionate and dedicated in finding creative and inspirational ways to bring the life of the gospel into people's lives. Thank you. Please do continue to pray for the home group leaders and the individual members of the groups, as they journey through 2025 into 2026.

In March 2025 I went on a pilgrimage to Turkey organised through Southwark Dioceses and visited the seven churches of Asia minor, Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. Whilst much hilarity was had throughout the pilgrimage, there were long, but rewarding days as we experienced these places. It was a hugely valuable and uplifting time to be able to stand and walk in these places, knowing that some of the apostles came to visit, preach and live during their time of ministry.



Ian

Rev Ian Nott,
Curate



WHAT'S THE STORY? FROM THE WARDENS

We are so blessed to have such an inspiring ministry team of Kevin and Ian at the Good Shepherd, further strengthened this year by the arrival of Peter Graystone. Under their leadership we have seen real growth in many areas of our work, particularly the faithful and growing community of those who attend our Wednesday morning communion service and our ministry with children and young people.

Our faith community meets throughout the week, to explore faith through small groups; to support and encourage others through activities such as BEES and Holy Roast; have fun together in Game On, Wednesday Club, Shepherd Singers, Youth@5, and Bishops Lent activities etc. Every one of these activities is lovingly, and often sacrificially, led and supported. The care and commitment shown is a testament to the way that so many in our church put their faith, prayers and reflections into action.

Alongside our Clergy Team, we thank the wonderful Fran and Michaela who continue to work tirelessly to ensure that the myriad issues that underpin much of Good Shepherd life are attended to efficiently and effectively. They are the friendly faces greeting those visiting the church during the week and their love and care for us all is evident in less measurable, but equally important ways.

We also want to thank those prepared to take on other key roles in the running of the church. These include: Chris our faithful and expert Treasurer and Fair's mastermind who has been in post for longer than almost anyone can remember!; Janet (and behind the scenes, David) Hill; the PCC, including our diocesan reps and PCC Secretary Moira; our new electoral roll officer Martin Thompson; the hospitality teams; the flower team; the AV team; the children's and youth teams; the gardening team; the safeguarding team; the Parish Nursing team; the Deputy Wardens. It is only when you start writing a list you realise how many wonderful folk there are! The summer of 2024 witnessed the refurbishment of the Southside which, after nearly 25 years of hard service, was badly in need of a total refresh. We are incredibly grateful to Katrina for her leadership and dedication to drive this project through so well and on time.

We also thank the Premises Team (Janet H, Mike, Anthony, Nick, Fran) who continue to deal with a host of building challenges. A notable success this year was the installation of a roof alarm system so sensitive it even picked up a large bee – mind you, the phone alert sent out when the alarm is activated can be heard in France! Huge thanks also to Paul Moore who left last summer – his technical expertise and wisdom has been greatly missed.

As ever, our congregation continues to reach out to our neighbours near and far, whether they come to enjoy the Twiglets activities in Carshalton Beeches, benefit from food or migration support in Sutton, are cared for overseas, or encounter God's love in a myriad other ways.

Thank you to all our friends, through whom Jesus' light shines so brightly!



Anthony & Mark

Anthony Thompson & Mark Crompton,
Wardens



4 HOW ARE WE ROOTED, GROWING AND FRUITFUL?

Rooted in Christ: Gathered Worship

2024 began by continuing our Christmas theme seeing the **Awe in the Ordinary**, seeking to notice where God is at work in ordinary in life. **Finding Faith** was our lenten theme seeking to discover key moments of the big story of faith, linking in with a series of evening services '**Deepening Faith - Growing Character**'. Easter was a joy, as we read the Passion Story, held Maundy Thursday and Good Friday reflections through all-age and a creative walk through the passion, celebrating Easter Sunday with an all-age interactive service with a variety of activities. Thanks to all who joined in enthusiastically! Eastertide took us on a journey looking at '**50 Days of Wonder**', how the Holy Spirit brings life, going deeper in the evening service. An Ephesians tour, **Growing Up in Christ**, accompanied by teaching in the evening services led by Ian and Katrina on **How to Pray With Each Other**, encouraged learning about inviting prayer *with* each other rather than prayer *for* each other.

Summer led us to consider the **I Am Saying of Jesus**, and the young people had another great year at **Satellites festival**. They explored and developed itchier faith journeys, many of them committing to confirmation in the autumn term. Autumn took us through the book of James '**Wisdom for Life**', followed by the book of Job called **Ancient Wisdom Rooted in Christ**. We completed the year's cycle into Advent and Christmas, with once again fabulous attendance at our various Christmas services, despite the weather challenging us for **Carols by Starlight**!

Thank you to everyone involved in our gathered worship, from the big and obvious to those busy in the background, and to those who pray quietly for it all. Our **Wednesday Holy Communion service** continues to have a strong regular congregation, as does our Sunday 8.30am **Holy Communion**. Thank you to everyone.

Growing in Faith: Everyday Discipleship

Our faith does not only exist in our gathered worship, and we continue to prioritise growing our faith through **everyday discipleship**, happening through **our small groups**, which include **prayer, bible study, discussion** and helping each other navigate life through the lens of faith. This year, Ian took on overseeing the small groups, and many have seen growth in attendance this year. Once a month the Evening services also gave the opportunity to read the bible together and ponder, pray and chat through faith. Our 'This time tomorrow' feature told us stories of lives within our community as we prioritise faith in everyday life, and I know there are many ways that our faith is expressed through volunteering, and in how we aim to reflect Jesus at work, school, and home. We also said goodbye to Paul and Helen Moore which affected our music teams. Aj, Ben, Debs, Mike and Katie have all been answers to prayer, alongside Julia's continual facilitation of our musical worship. Peter and Ian have added Cheryl H, Cheryl T, Ruth, Mike R and Nick C in creatively encouraging growth in our faith.



4 HOW ARE WE ROOTED, GROWING AND FRUITFUL?

Fruitful in Love: Community Well-being

There are many ways the Good Shepherd congregation practices in welcoming and supporting the community, including through **Holy Roast, the Lent Events** and the hospitality elements of the **Auction of Promises**. The church also works at supporting those facing bereavement through the **Bereavement course** and **BEES** bereavement support group. We are able to offer many different regular activities, including the **Tea Parties** for the elderly, **Wednesday Club, Game On, Shepherd Singers, Coffee & Craft, Twiglets, Youthe5**, all of which means our facilities are well used! And the wonderful trip to see **Come from Away** organised by Emma Clemments and driven by Peter B.

There are many examples of individuals being fruitful in love, and in particular we thank Nikki Potter as **Parish Nurse**, and the **Health and Well-being team** of Jacquie Kinch and Grace Batten. They have been invaluable in their support of a wide range of our community, and go over and above what is asked of them. I would also like to thank you all for the many informal pastoral visits and support you give each other, seeking to ensure that nobody is forgotten, even if they cannot currently come to church.

Being fruitful also includes fundraising, and along with our wonderful **Summer and Christmas Fairs**, which continue to support Homestart Sutton, Cry in the Dark, Sutton Schools Work, Sutton Community Works and Diamond Centre, there were also many events for the **Bishop's Lent Appeal**, the **Auction of Promises, shoeboxes** for **Cry in the Dark** in Romania, **our Harvest** offering for **CAP and Zimbabwe Diocesan Link**, and Christmas offerings for the **Children's Society**.

We continue to seek to be a church community looking inwards and outwards, being open to the Spirit guiding us and taking our everyday ordinary lives and placing it before God as our offering. As we practice surrendering our ordinary lives to God, who is love, we discover more of how Holy Spirit uses us within every interaction, communicating love, wide, wide as the ocean.



4 FOCUS ON SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups - Trinity

Trinity small group meets on Saturday Morning via Zoom, connecting members old and new, having been formed over 20 years ago. Reflections from its members;

Home Group for me is all about the fellowship, friendship, love and support we have for each other, all whilst we study God's word, and trying to be more like him in our everyday lives. I personally have learnt so much from the wiser members of the Group, and their faith and their encouragement has helped me grow. NL

It is a very important part of my life spending time with dear friends whilst learning and sharing our thoughts of God's word and supporting each other through good and sad times. LM



Small Group - Bethany

Bethany Small Group meets on Thursday Evenings in a local member's home.

What does the group mean to you...fellowship, friendship, fun, being able to relax, feels like coming home, nurturing & learning, studying the Bible, praying and supporting each other.

What have you done...studies in Psalms with each member expounding a favourite; studies on the life of King David; women of the Nativity; and currently the book of Revelation. Also using, creative prayer; celebrated significant birthdays; outing to Salvation Army carols; Christmas meal together.



Small Groups - Willmoor

Willmoor Small Group meets on Wednesdays with a member of the group hosting.

..small group means to us...family, church family who seek to follow Christ and share life's ups and downs with each other.

We meet fortnightly with several study leaders looking at the Gospels, healing prayer, Old Testament and New as we feel led. We have socials and trips out...St.Paul's, Knepp Castle, theatre, etc.



4 FOCUS ON SMALL GROUPS

Small Groups - Eden

Eden Small Group meets on Wednesdays using the church rooms.
Visit to LICC, retreat day.

Small groups are an opportunity to meet with a wonderful friendship group, to talk about the bible and encourage each other in Christian Life. There is love, support and it is vital. A place to belong, even if I don't make many meetings, I can always count on prayers. Love, support, it is vital. An opportunity to meet with friends, to talk about the bible and encourage each other in the faith.

We looked at the Lord's Prayer, Pot-luck Psalms where we were each given a Psalm or two, to look at and lead on, Light in the darkness. We also visited LICC and went on a retreat day.



Small Group - LOAF (Ladies on a Friday)

LOAF is a group open to any women in the church who are around on a Friday Morning, so it can be small and it can be large.

It meets on Friday mornings in the church, having chat and prayer one week and a study one week throughout term time.

Loaf is a wonderful group of women who meet each week to share life experiences and encourage each other in their faith. It is full of warmth, love and lots of laughter. It is inclusive, emotional and challenging at times but best of all compassionate and so full of hope.

We have looked at Women of Holy Week, Wisdom and Foolishness and many other subjects over the year.



Small groups are also the basis for all our **hospitality teams** each Sunday. Providing welcome, making and serving tea refreshments and the glorious washing up. We couldn't do refreshments without these teams, so we are all so grateful for all they do. If you would like to be on a team then do speak to the team.



THE STORY OF THE YEAR - 2024

Holy Roast | Lent Events | Coffee and Craft | Bereavement Course | BEES | Twiglets | Tea Parties
Small Groups | Wednesday Communion | Sunday 8.30am | 10am | 6.30pm | Kids@10 | Youth@10 |
Youth@5 | Everyage Team | Baptisms | Funerals | Pastoral Care | Morning Prayer | Friday Zoom
Listening Prayer | WhatsApp Groups | Live Stream Services | LOAF | Wednesday Club | GAME ON |
Shepherd Singers | Hospitality Teams | Parish Nurse & Wellbeing | Youth on Team | Volunteering with
CAP, Homestart, Food Shop, Foodbank, Prison Fellowship, Oasis bookshop, Linking Lives, Creative
hope, MAPS, Refugee & Migrant (and many others) | Flower Team | Premises Team | Tech Team |
Garden Team | Pastoral Visiting | Church Open Team | School Assemblies | Grill a Christian in High
Schools | Community Hub | Good Shepherd Runners | Supporting Charities | Christmas Choir | All
the many welcomers | Auction of Promises | Lent Events | Many volunteers making lots of things
happen | Enabling groups to use the facilities |

January: Bereavement Course | Week of Prayer for Christian Unity | Evening Services

February: Ash Wednesday Reflections | Rosemary Bloxham's Funeral

March: LENT Course: Praying with each other | Bishop's Lent Appeal Events, Big Breakfast, Ploughman's
Lunch, Ginny's Dog Walk, Horsham Lunch, Bake Sale, The Gospel According to Shakespeare | Mothering
Sunday flowers - with Bishop Rosemarie | Parkrun

April: Lent Event: Railway talk | Maundy Thursday Service | Twiglets Easter Service | Good Friday All Age
Service | Good Friday Walk of Witness | Good Friday Creative Reflection | Easter Celebration | Lent
Gnome Hunt | Midwinter Party

May: School Assembly Tenison's | Election Polling Station

June: Summer Fair |

July: Ian Nott Ordained Priest | Ian Nott's First Communion | Holy BBQ | Southside Refurbishment

August: Youth go to Satellites | C&C Postbox Topper for Good Shepherd | Southwark Cathedral Creation |
Hudsons 25 Year Anniversary Celebration | Saying goodbye to the Moores

September: The Forge | Macmillan Coffee Morning | Gardening Day | Confirmed Course | Confirmation
Service | Baptism of Jessica Rose & Jared

October: Harvest | Theatre trip to Come from Away | Southwark Cathedral Moon | Evening Service - How to
pray with others | Shoebox Sunday - Cry in the Dark children's boxes

November: Poppy Display & Poppy Postbox Topper | Hope Remembered - Memorial Service | Bereavement
Course | Oasis Popup Bookstall

December: Advent Reflections | Christmas Fair | Marathon of Hope | Twiglets Christmas Special | All age
Christingle | Carols by Starlight | Carols by Candlelight | Nativity | Midnight Communion | Christmas
Celebrations

**Electoral
Roll
130**

**Small
groups
5**

**Renewal of
vows
1**

**Average
Weekly online
views
44**

**Attended
over
Christmas
period
658**

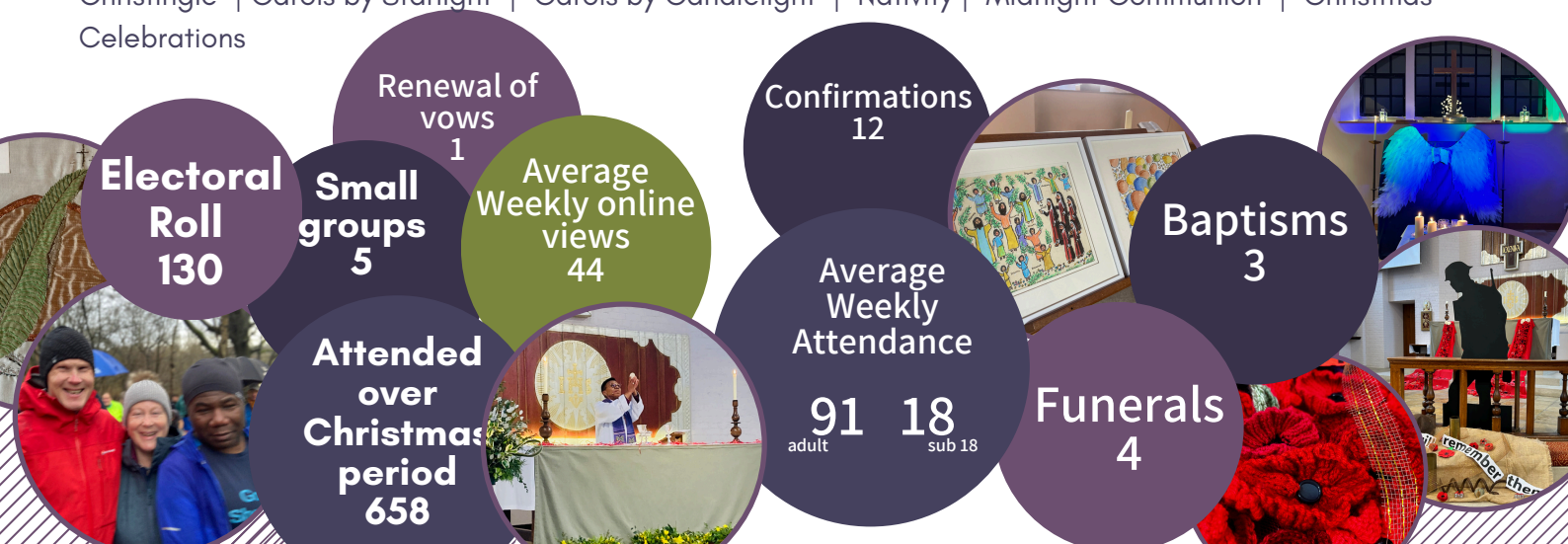
**Confirmations
12**

**Average
Weekly
Attendance**

91 18
adult sub 18

**Baptisms
3**

**Funerals
4**





FAITH IN PICTURES 2024





2024

THE STORY OF THE YEAR

Rooted inChrist





2024

THE STORY OF THE YEAR

Growing in Faith





2024

THE STORY OF THE YEAR

Fruitful in love



kindness



Discovering the awe in the ordinary.
Noticing where Love is moving around,
through, above, below, within, enabling
us to be Jesus' hands, feet and hearts.

Nothing can separate us from the
Love of God.

